UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/589
20 May 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 19 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the conclusions of the Council - General Affairs - of the European Union regarding Kosovo, published on 17 May 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

99-15006 (E) 200599 200599

/...

Annex

Council - General Affairs - conclusions

Published in Brussels on 17 May 1999

[Original: English and French]

Kosovo

The Council recalled its conclusions of 8 and 26 April and regretted that President Milosevic still has not accepted the set of conditions of the international community. Half or partial measures which do not meet the above conditions will fail to provide the guarantees necessary for the safe return of the refugees. The Council emphasized the EU's adherence to these conditions in their entirety.

The Council discussed the repercussions of the Kosovo crisis with President Milo Djukanovic. It reiterated its full support for the democratically elected Government of Montenegro and commended its determined efforts to continue on its democratic course under very difficult circumstances and to avoid giving a pretext to President Milosevic for undermining and destabilizing the Republic.

The Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss the situation in Kosovo with Mr. Ibrahim Rugova. The Council informed Mr. Rugova of its current efforts to solve the Kosovo crisis through a political settlement that would provide for the safe return of all refugees and for substantial self-government for Kosovo within the borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and help abate the overheated nationalist sentiments now prevailing in the area.

The Council warmly welcomed the general principles for a political solution to the Kosovo crisis adopted by the G8 Foreign Ministers.

The Council supported President Ahtisaari's willingness to work on behalf of the Union, in cooperation with the Russian and United States efforts, to ensure the implementation of the conditions of the international community to end the conflict in Kosovo.

The Council also welcomed the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of two Special Representatives for the Kosovo crisis, former Prime Minister Carl Bildt of Sweden and Foreign Minister Milan Kukan of Slovakia.

The Council stressed the need for an early United Nations Security Council resolution and confirmed its preparedness to bring such a resolution about. The EU confirmed its readiness to play its part in implementing an agreed political solution.

The Council welcomed the cooperation of associated countries with the Union's sanctions regime.

The Council shared the profound regret expressed by the United Nations Security Council over the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

The Council urged all relevant organizations to make the maximum effort to bring humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced persons within Kosovo.

The Council highlighted the need for EU assistance to have an early impact in the region and heard a report by the Commission on the allocation and the intended rapid disbursement, within the next few days, of the 100 million Euro direct budgetary assistance to Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro in order to contribute to the stabilization of the region. Fully aware of the enormous strain the refugee influx is exerting on the fragile democracies of the region, the Council closely follows the developments on the ground and encourages the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia authorities to exhaust all possibilities to cope with the ensuing problems. The Council heard a preliminary report by the Commission on its conditionality review, an enhanced regional approach and the upgrading of contractual relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. It looked forward to the early submission by the Commission of its communication on these issues.

The Council agreed upon the establishment of a Stability Pact, the adoption of a related Common Position and a draft text for "the Stability Pact" providing the basis for further talks between the EU and other Parties of the Pact. The Council instructed the relevant working bodies to take work forward urgently, with a view to a meeting at senior officials level to be held in Bonn on 27 May. The Council recalled that the European Council in Vienna in December 1998 had concluded that a Common Strategy on the Western Balkans should be developed, and agreed that the necessary work should be put in hand, on the basis of a broader regional approach.

Appendix

Common position concerning the launching of the Stability Pact of the EU on south-eastern Europe

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular its Article 15;

Whereas:

1. on 8 and 26 April 1999 the Council adopted conclusions concerning south-eastern Europe;

2. a political solution to the Kosovo crisis must be embedded in a determined effort geared towards stabilizing the region as a whole;

3. a Stability Pact for south-eastern Europe should be prepared;

4. such a Stability Pact should be founded on the United Nations Charter, the principles and commitments of the OSCE, and the relevant treaties and conventions of the Council of Europe, in particular the European Convention on Human Rights;

5. the EU should play the leading role in the Stability Pact, the OSCE has a key role to play in fostering security and stability, and the Stability Pact should be developed and implemented in close association with the OSCE;

6. the EU, in the framework of the Regional Approach and beyond, is already active in strengthening democratic and economic institutions in the region through a number of well established programmes;

7. the EU will draw the region closer to the perspective of full integration of these countries into its structures through a new kind of contractual relationship, taking into account the individual situation of each country, with a perspective of EU membership on the basis of the Amsterdam Treaty and once the Copenhagen criteria have been met;

8. the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should be invited to participate in such a Stability Pact once it has met the necessary conditions;

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING COMMON POSITION:

Article 1

1. The EU will play the leading role in establishing a Stability Pact for south-eastern Europe.

2. The aim of this Stability Pact is to help ensure cooperation among the countries in the region towards comprehensive measures for the long-term

stabilization, security, democratization, and economic reconstruction and development of the region, and for the establishment of durable good-neighbourly relations among and between them, and with the international community.

3. The EU will work to ensure the creation among the participants themselves of a "South-Eastern Europe Regional Table" to carry forward the Stability Pact.

Article 2

1. In order to further the objectives stated in Article 1 the European Union will convene a conference on south-eastern Europe.

2. The conference will take place at the level of Foreign Ministers, if possible no later than the end of July 1999 in the light of developments in the region. The conference will be held using the Royaumont format (excluding the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until it has met the conditions of the international community for its participation). In addition, representatives of Canada, Japan, EBRD, EIB, IMF, WB, OECD, United Nations, NATO, WEU, UNHCR, as well as representatives of regional initiatives will also participate at the conference.

3. The conference will be prepared at a meeting in Königswinter (Petersberg) on 27 May 1999 at the level of senior officials, in the format set out in paragraph 2. With a view to this, work for this conference will be carried forward urgently.

Article 3

1. The EU will actively support the countries in the region in achieving the objectives of the Stability Pact.

2. The EU will undertake together with international donors to organize a donors/reconstruction conference for south-eastern Europe.

Article 4

The Common Position shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Article 5

This Common Position shall be published in the Official Journal.